

MAG

THE AUSTRALIAN ATARI GAZETTE

\$4.00

Nov/December 1991

8th December 10:30am start.



Season's Greetings BBQ at Blackburn Lake

(Malways Map 48 B11 Central Road Entry)



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Monthly Journal of the MELBOURNE ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS INC.

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Coming Event



MACE Meetings

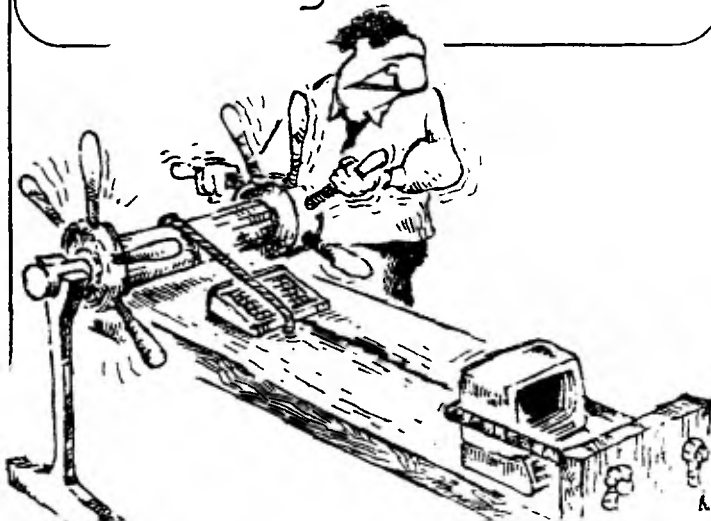
Dates	Themes
8th December	Annual BBQ

9th February 1992.

First meeting
for 1992.



*Season's Greetings
and a Happy Computing
New Year to all*



MACE 1982- 1991

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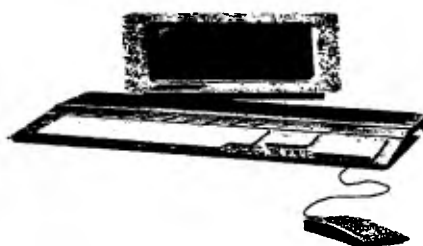
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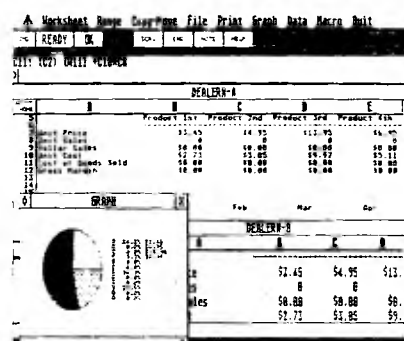
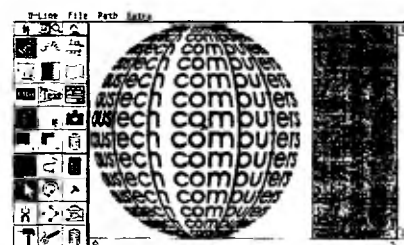
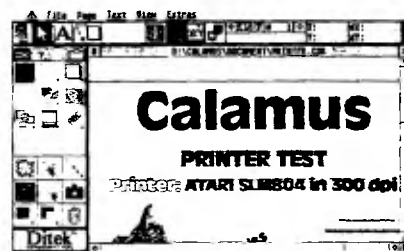
Full Desktop Publishing Solution that offers high performance with products from ISD; Calamus, Calamus SL, Outline ART and the latest addition Cranach Studio running on the new Atari TT workstation. The new TT machine offers 68030 32 bit power running at an awesome speed of 32 MHz.

Colour Graphics is handled on the Mega ST and TT Machine by MATRIX graphics boards offering 16 million colours! Colour Imaging is now a breeze on the Epson Colour Flatbed scanner with Cranach studio software. Linotronic and Compugraphic Imagesetter interfacing are all available to the Calamus / Atari D.T.P. system



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AUSTECH COMPUTERS



PRESIDENT'S byte

I have three important items for you this month.

Firstly, many of you who have read the Treasurer's monthly report will have noticed some legal expenses. On 3rd August, our BBS received a particularly obscene message. Although this is a rare occurrence, it was not the only one. In the past, our Sysop has merely contacted the parents and that has been the end of the matter. Like all previous cases, the culprit who left the message on 3rd August has learnt his lesson and not called us back since we contacted his parents. Unfortunately, this time his father armed with his solicitor friend have been causing MACE problems for having the gall to suggest that his son was something less than an angel. All previous attempts to reason with them both directly and via a solicitor have failed. Our policy now is to just ignore them.

Why do we bother getting upset over a bit of bad language? While many of you (like me) are not really that bothered by obscene language, there are some MACE members who are. Basically, all we ask is that those using the BBS behave responsibly.

We are also taking steps to ensure that there is no recurrence of this problem. We will be installing a 'front end' program to filter out this rubbish from the BBS. It is a pity we have to add a 'censor', but when simple good manners and parental guidance fail, we have no alternative.

Now for some good news. MACE is currently undertaking one of its most ambitious projects ever. On 15th March 1992 we will be hosting a music extravaganza at the Sir Dallas Brooks Hall. The brainchild of our Vice President Owen Brown, this event will provide an opportunity for vendors, retailers, and people interested in music and MIDI to get together. So, what's in it for MACE? If it proves successful, MACE will stand to make a substantial amount of money which will keep your membership costs down.

Even if it proves not to be very successful, MACE will merely break even.

Finally, to make better use of the two rooms we have booked at Monash, next year we will be holding a number of short courses on a variety of computer related topics including a beginners course, hardware, MIDI, GFA BASIC, and C. In addition, we are planning to put together a magazine to show you how it is done.

That's all for now. I hope to see you at the BBQ after the December meeting at the Blackburn Lake. We'll supply the BBQ, you supply the rest.

Brian Campbell



BBQ Lunch after December Meeting

Malways Map 48 B11

enter via the Central Road side and search around for a familiar face as there are usually a lot of groups there having some sort of Christmas party.

See Ya There!!!!



Editorial

And so ends another year. Gee times certainly flies when there is a lot happening. As editor of the club magazine for the past 7 years, I have seen many events take place in the surrounding of MACE.

It is on this note that I must inform members that I will be ending my voluntary position as editor with this issue. When I took on this position back in 1985 I offered my time to help the club in some way. The collection and putting together of this publication certainly allowed me to meet many people who offered their help in the same way.

While being on the committee the club has been through a lot and many of the members supported us in decision and saw that we were only offering voluntary help as members of the club ourselves. But it has come to the point that I as an ordinary members have been targetted for the way the mag has been put together. Last month saw the mag not produced. This was due to a lack of articles. I am certainly not going to sit down and write them, so I contacted two committee members and said that the

November issue would not be published. They agreed and said that this would be announced at the November meeting to indicate the situation of lack of articles from members.

It seems that a particular member in the club has indicated that he was not pleased with the decision made and made a statement in the November club meeting and also saw a need to state his frustrations out at the committee meeting.

Such happens have been occurring for some months. I have got to the stage where I thought that voluntary help, when asked for, was looked upon as something positive but this member seems only to see the negatives. It is about time that this member looks at the happening in the past and in recent history to see what cost in \$\$\$ that he has brought upon the club before he starts condemning others for their offered help.

Voluntary help should be something that is dearly valued not pushed into the gutter. From Sysop positions to ST librarian positions, it's members that offer their assistance to their club. Let's try to acknowledge their contributions rather than have them feel as if they are always being attacked.

As outgoing editor I wish every member a safe and eventful Christmas and New Year.



Mount Buller Weekend 1992

Pictured is Owen Brown. Thanks Owen for organising this social event for MACE Members



Secretary's Report



Hi there,

I am pleased to report that things in the Secretary's corner are progressing smoothly. Sleep would be a fine thing as since the birth of our son, Giles Rhett, on 21 September, it has been a bit chaotic in our household lately! Thanks to everyone for their good wishes.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, our last 2 Meetings have not been preceded by the "MAG". This appears to have resulted in a significant drop in the number attending these Meetings. A list of future meeting dates usually appears on the first page in each "MAG" so diarise these dates well ahead to avoid missing the monthly Meeting. Alternatively, just remember that we meet on the second Sunday in each month (except January).

Just another reminder that you get out of the Club what you put into it, so if you have any ideas or suggestions for meetings please let us know. Your articles for the MAG are also welcome - no matter how "basic" or small, someone will be interested to read them. In order to better utilise the facilities at Monash, your Committee would like to see sessions run in the afternoon. Suggestions for these have been workshops on such things as "C", "GFA BASIC", basics for beginners and demonstrations on such things as "what the inside of your ATARI looks like and how it works" etc. If you have any further ideas for such sessions or, in fact, are willing to give a demonstration or conduct a short "instruction session" we would be only too happy to hear from you.

Just to keep your Committee fully occupied, we are hoping to be in a position to hold a "MIDI/Music" day at Dallas Brooks Hall on 15 March 1992, aimed at informing attendees of the concept of MIDI and introducing ATARI based music software. Again, the Committee will require as much support as possible from Club members. If you are interested in helping out just let us know. AND tell friends who might be interested. So, keep your ears to the ground for further developments on this exciting project.

We have decided to hold our next Committee meeting at Blackburn Lake during or after the barbecue so we'll be there - how about you?

I've just realised that Christmas is around the corner (where did this year go?). Compliments of the season to one and all and may it be a safe and happy Christmas with better things to come for 1992.

See you soon!

Sue Richardson
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Well it's nearly years end. That time of the year when we say to our neighbour Good luck Good cheer and all the best for the coming year. It's also the time to make New Year resolutions. Maybe as club members one of our Resolutions could be a contribution to our monthly magazine. The magazine editor tears his hair out each month trying to find articles to put in the mag. So please before the editor has to go in for a hair transplant lets make 1992 the year MACE members gave a little of their time to the magazine content.

I would like to wish all a Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

Below is a summary of October and Novembers transactions.

OCTOBER PAYMENTS

MAG. COSTS AUG. SEPT & OCT	\$1176.19
POSTAGE AND PHONE	\$ 151.20
REFRESHMENTS	\$ 7.78
DEPOSIT FOR BULLER W/END	\$ 80.00
CLUB ASSETS INSURANCE	\$ 421.09
LEGAL FEES	\$ 81.20

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ADS IN MAG.	\$ 24.00
SALE OF MAGS	\$ 16.00
BULK BUYS (SUPERMONS)	\$ 236.00
B.B.S. REGISTRATIONS	\$ 20.00

TOTAL \$ 737.00

CURRENT BALANCE IS \$4225.53

NOVEMBER PAYMENTS

POSTAGE AND PHONE	\$ 5.95
BANK CHARGES	\$ 1.99
REFRESHMENTS	\$ 13.16
SUPERMON BULK BUY	\$ 364.00
SUPERMON REFUND TO MEMBERS	\$ 20.00

TOTAL \$ 405.10

NOVEMBER RECEIPTS

MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$ 255.00
DISC LIBRARY	\$ 154.00
FUND RAISING	\$ 37.50
ADS IN MAG	\$ 160.00
SALE OF MAGS	\$ 10.00
B.B.S. REGISTRATIONS	\$ 10.00

TOTAL \$ 596.50

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REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING

Ron Cork demonstrated some of the Public Domain software that is available for the ATARI ST computers.

Lucas Lozo described the use of the GENie Bulletin Board System, and stated that the "GENie" Bulletin Board (run by General Electric) is now available to Melbourne users through local numbers giving direct access to the international network. The numbers are 529 6155 (error correction available for expensive modems); 520 0511; and 525 1887. Your modem will need to be set:- 1200 or 2400 baud 8 N 1 Echo ON (local).

To get started, after connect type HHH ←
U# XTX99407,GENIE

Now the hard bit - You need Visa or Mastercard on hand to enter your card number. You will be given an account number (remember to remember it) and the system will then be available for you to use next time you "logon" given that approximately 24 hours has passed. Charges are based on time of use and are presently US\$25 per hour. This is far less than the cost of an international telephone call to America.

There are believed to be around 23,000 ATARI files on the system. GENie is used by many of the ATARI software developers in the United States as a user query service. Conference sessions with many users linking together are also possible.

For country users there are Austpac telephone numbers available, 01924 (2400 baud) and 01922 (1200 baud).

(If the cost of this service is too high, consider perhaps using Austech's BBS as Lucas has said he will be downloading many of the ATARI files onto his BBS.)

The new ATARI TT computer was demonstrated to those present. The unit demonstrated had a 386SX board built in to enable IBM-PC type software to be executed upon it. Many of those present took the opportunity for a close look at the TT on conclusion of the meeting.

Neil Richardson

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER



HUGE COMPUTER SWAP MEET

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Sunday 1st December. Entry \$2.00, stands from \$4.00.
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Multidesk V2.2

ST Applications – Issue 12

from Codehead Software

Reviewed by Keith Jackson

There are two drawbacks to Desk Accessories on the ST. The first is that they can only be loaded at a re-boot and the second is that you can use a maximum of six at a time. The limit of six is not a problem, because I have not found a consistent need for more, but the idea of being able to loading Accessories throughout an operating session appeals very much. If there is one thing I hate it is having to reboot the machine to change settings. It's messy.

I recently bought G-Plus, the Codehead Software GDOS replacement, and I was very impressed by its quality (see STA 8). With the order, I received an advertising flier for the other products in the Codehead Software range. They also sent their demo disk as a bonus for registering some Little Green Footballs Shareware, so that I had chance to try them before buying.

Of the demo programmes, Multidesk looked the most useful. It acts as a shell for Accessories and has the ability to load and unload them without a re-boot. You can also have as many Accessories as you like, up to your memory capacity if you really have the need.

Details

The package comes with a single disk, a 32-page manual for version 2.0 and a Readme file for the



Figure 1: This is the new selection screen for your accessories. You can save lists for different applications and load them almost as required.

updates. It can be installed as an Accessory or as a normal programme, although why you would want to run it as a programme defeats me as everything is lost when you exit.

Multidesk is installed like any other Accessory and appears in the left-hand menu as normal, although you have the unusual option of being able to change the wording displayed there. When you select it a dialogue box appears (Figure 1) which is the point from which your other Accessories are now loaded and selected. In the version I bought you can add up to 32 Accessories at once but, if that is insufficient, you can re-install Multidesk inside itself and carry on, one level down! The manual suggests that this can be done several times.

It is possible to save your selections of Accessories as *.MLT files and load them in from the dialogue-box. By choosing the right name (MULTIDESK.MLT for high-resolution and COLOR.MLT otherwise) a selection can be loaded automatically when you boot up. You have to be careful, though. If you list Multidesk within that MLT file each copy will try to load the Accessories in the same file - until it imitates the Oozlum bird and disappears in ever-decreasing circles!

I like to turn my machine on and get on with whatever I have to do. I get annoyed, unreasonably so, about rebooting in the middle of a session. Compared to the length of time I will actually spend working it's nothing but it really gets under my skin. Multidesk seemed to be the answer as I could load and unload Accessories as my needs changed.

When I did not need any Accessories I could collapse its buffer to a minimum of 1k. Only a few Accessories are incompatible and most do odd-ball things like reserve two slots.

Experience with Multidesk

I soon found that there are drawbacks to Multidesk which restrict its flexibility. The first is to do with

the ST's memory management, I believe. When any programme loads, it captures an amount of memory for its own use. Having done that, it releases the rest back to the system. In the case of Multidesk, this can be any amount equal to or greater than that required to contain the Accessories you need, set either by configuring the Accessory or from within the MLT file you load. It also "snapshots" the system vectors at this point and these may be changed by subsequent programmes.

This all means that any operation which results in changing the buffer size from within another programme is taboo and loading another Accessory (even when you have buffer capacity to spare) may lead to a crash. There are no excuses - you are warned if you try. The only place you can safely do these operations is from the built-in GEM Desktop.

If you are using Neodesk or Gemini, which are just GEM programmes at the end of the day, you have to drop out, make your changes and reload. You will have no problems with the Desktop replacement Hotwire because the Codeheads have covered it.

I spent quite some time setting up my system with appropriate MLT files and then set Super Boot to give me suitable starting line-ups. Most of the time was spent wrestling with the manual as I tried to make it load my set-ups in colour as well as monochrome. The manual tells you about MULTIDESK.MLT but fails to tell you that the autoload name for a medium or low resolution system is COLOR.MLT at the same page. I still cannot understand the need for two filenames, though.

Most of the time it worked well and I reduced the number of

keys I needed to pre-set. The one programme which did not always work properly was their own G-Plus, much to my surprise. This arises because certain Accessories link into programmes and they must be both installed and initialised before their associated programme is run.

Questions and (some) Answers

One trio of my Superboot keys is set to auto-run Degas Elite in high, medium and low resolutions. Since buying G-Plus I find that I have no more need for Atari GDOS but the extra facilities which make the Codehead replacement so useful are only accessible via the Accessory.

Without the Accessory in place, G-Plus acts only as a plain-vanilla GDOS substitute. Although I had been using this arrangement without problems for some time, I found loading the Accessory via Multidesk meant that Degas only loaded with the default arrangement. I could not make the G-plus programme pick up the pre-defined SYS file for Degas no matter where I put it in the list.

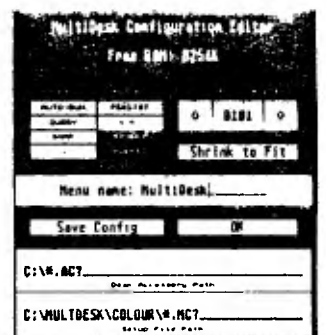


Figure 2: The configuration screen. Select paths, buffer size and title for display in the Desk menu.

cont next page...



ST Disk Library Update



 ***** MACE ST (16Bit) DISK LIBRARY *****

***** SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT *****

All future ST (16Bit) Library Disks will be available at a cost of \$5.00 each including postage, however, in passing this saving to members it would be appreciated if disks could be picked up at the MACE Workshops, thereby saving the cost of postage and allowing the Library to run as cost efficient as possible.

Please note: no refunds for overpayment will be returned, however a credit amount will be advised and allowed for in future purchases.

***** BRIAN LEHNE ST (16Bit) DISK LIBRARIAN *****

Cont....

I thought that I had found a bug because I had had no previous problem running the programme in this way. I rang the States and was, I feel, brushed off.

The "bug" is actually a deficiency in the TOS 1.4 auto-run routine. No checks are made to ensure that all Accessories have been initialised before a programme is launched. This can be overcome, however, because I had been running it this way for weeks before buying Multidesk.

Neodesk 3 has a built-in delay to ensure that it does not boot until the Accessories are in place and Superboot v7 generates a pause before allowing the system to move on and run the Desktop for the same reason. Unless I used both of these to give me two pauses I had problems with G-Plus being beaten by the system when used with Multidesk.

The trouble is that Multidesk acts as the sole Accessory and each of these traps only ensures that any conventionally-installed Accessory has initialised before continuing. However, Multidesk does not load and initialise the

Accessories listed in the MLT file until after the GEM routines have started so the traps are ineffective. You can see this by when the indicator screens show up.

Having explained this to me, the Codeheads said that the answer was not for them to fix Multidesk but for me to throw away Neodesk 3 and buy Hotwire! I'm sure that they are fed up with people ringing with this "bug" but if they know it may happen why is it not in the manual or the README file? If other programmers can generate suitable pauses, can't the Codeheads?

Summary

At the end of the day, Multidesk performs as advertised. Provided you do not use a replacement Desktop, except for Codehead's Hotwire, you can add umpteen Accessories at will. The drawback is having to use the poor-quality Atari Desktop.

Multidesk is, undoubtedly, a very clever piece of coding which overcomes a deficiency in the ST's operating system but, sadly, it

does not really give sufficient "added value" for me to recommend it to anyone who is not constantly plagued by a lack of Accessories. It is quite expensive and I feel that the manual is not too well laid out.

It must have given the programmer a great deal of satisfaction to have cracked the problem but I don't feel that I would have bought the programme if I had been able to use the demo version for more than 10 minutes at a time. It was long enough to whet the appetite but not long enough to find all the drawbacks.

I now find that I am using it less and less and I am steadily resetting my Superboot keys as they were before - and isn't that the acid test of any software?

For:

- ✓ Allows the use of many more Accessories at a time up to your memory limit.
- ✓ Allows Accessories to be loaded and unloaded without rebooting.

Against:

- ✗ Is incompatible with TOS 1.4's autorun feature.
- ✗ Cannot be changed except from the Atari Desktop or Hotwire.
- ✗ Expensive for the benefits it gives.
- ✗ Not useful unless you regularly require more than six Accessories in memory at once.
- ✗ Manual is not well laid out.

Product:.....Multidesk
 Version:.....2.2
 Price:.....£29.95
 Supplier:.....System Solutions
 19 Sumner
 Workshops
 80 Sumner Road
 London
 SE15 6LA
 Tel:.....071 252 7775
 System:.....any ST, colour
 or mono



Review of "NEW ATARI USER" Magazine

It is September 30th and my copy of the October/November #52 issue of NEW ATARI USER magazine has just arrived from England. NEW ATARI USER was formerly called PAGE 6 in it's early life until a few years ago when it acquired the current name. Initially inspired by ANTIC magazine, it is of high quality, printed on glossy stock and issued six times per year with optional disk by PAGE 6 PUBLISHING (a low overhead affair run by few staff). Regularly 74 pages, it has 70% 8-bit and 30% ST content. This latest issue of the magazine represents the first time in it's long history that it will not be stocked by the news trade (in Britain "firm sale" orders can be placed at newsagents). Issue #50 is still on some Melbourne newstands, but unless you subscribe directly, don't expect to see anymore here.

Issue #52 contains the following 8-bit material:

- *APX SOFTWARE; look back at some APX software that is available once again in Britain.
- *8-BITS OF HISTORY; follows the line of Steven Levy's book "HACKERS".
- *BAT PACK; article and listing for the game program on disk.
- *ARTIFACTING; Revealing article about artifacted colours on PAL systems. The program demonstrates true colours possible. For the first time we can see the same effects U.S 8-bits have enjoyed for a long time.
- *TUTORIAL TIME; Techniques for loading and saving any 8-bit screen.
- *A-Z OF GOLDEN OLDIES; Glossary of 8-bit games. Brief descriptions and ratings supplemented by other info such as style, publisher, release year, media and price.
- *TIPSTER; 8-bit game maps, hints and cheats.
- *STRINGING ALONG; Using strings in basic.
- *BULK DISK FORMATTER; Article and listing of disk format program.
- *SOFTWARE REVIEWS; 8-bit game reviews. The 8-bit is NOT dead, details of 8 new quality commercial

Run for your life! I specified
the wrong border in a
PAINT command !



games (Sogon/ Techno Ninja/ Mission Shark/ Zador/ Fred/ Jocky Wilson Darts/ Drag/ Stackup). Details elsewhere in the magazine of 5 new semi-commercial ST game clones for the 8-bit sold by PAGE 6 (Glaggs/ Rubberball/ Players Dream/ Taipei/ Invasion).

*CONTACT; Readers ads for wanted to buy, sell and penpals (mostly U.K).

The magazine disk contains only 8-bit items. All the various full and "quicky" programs in the magazine can be found there. Additionally there are regular bonus programs on the disk not found in the magazine. This issue finds the bonuses of the HYAMS TEXT ADVENTURE and PLOP; a turbobasic arcade style game. There is also a new loader on disk by the HI TECH TEAM. Sadly the loader has an over long text scroller and no sound but is excellent overall for programming effort alone.

Having only an 8-bit, I can't really judge the ST section of the mag but some of it does seem suitably technical and quite informative. Despite not having an ST, even I have found items of interest in the "ST FILE" portion of the magazine, which starts on page 53. ST articles this issue include:

- *MAKING MUSIC; Regular MIDI column.
- *RBI2 BASEBALL; game simulation review.

cont.

*TRADITIONAL BOARD GAMES; discussion of classic board games on the ST.
 *MASTERCAD; review of low cost CAD software.
 *PD WORLD; regular on English ST P.D scene.
 *BEYOND PC SPEED; investigatory article on other PC emulators for the ST.
 *ROLEPLAYING; Curse of the Azure Bonds.
 *SAMPLE THIS; sampling software and cartridges.
 *DGBASE; database review.
 *ST GAMES; review of 4 new commercial games.
 *VIRTUAL WORLDS; review of compilation game.
 *HOME ACCOUNTS; Serious software review.
 *STOS COLUMN; STOS tutorial with listing.

One point particularly worth mentioning is the PAGE 6 ACCESSORY SHOP. PAGE 6 PUBLISHING offers substantial P.D libraries for both 8-bit and ST. Additionally they also stock other items such as cables, reference manuals, books and special offers on 8-bit and ST software. The 8-bit special offers range from ATARIMUSIC to PLANETARIUM to ZAXXON.

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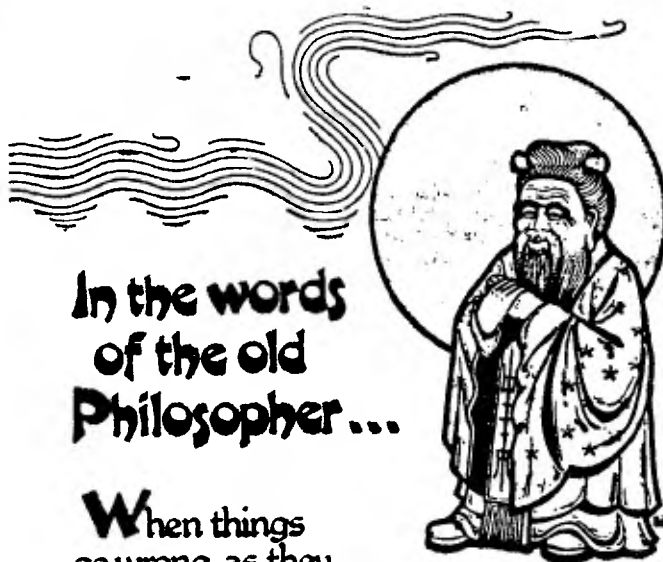
In conclusion: Although wide ranging and quite informative, I suspect the ST section will look too thin to an ST user, especially considering the cost of o/s magazine subscription. However, I can strongly recommend NEW ATARI USER as an absolute must for 8-bit users, especially so for games players. This is a very professional high quality magazine, and as far as I am aware, is the last one left for 8-bits. I would urge all remaining 8-bit users to take out subscriptions to PAGE 6 immediately (the price is going up from next issue).

Subscription prices in Pounds Sterling.

O/S Magazine only 15(sea)
 21(air).

O/S Magazine/disk 32(sea)
 42(air).

PAGE 6, P.O. BOX 54, STAFFORD, ST16 1DR, ENGLAND.



**In the words
 of the old
 Philosopher...**

When things
 go wrong, as they
 sometimes will,
 when the road you're
 trudging seems all up hill,
 when the funds are low,
 and the debts are high, and you
 need to smile, but you have to cry,
 when care is pressing you down a bit
 don't complain to me...

!!don't give a shit!!



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Remember that Super Products has been serving the Atari community since 1981, and has many faithful followers because of our service and backup, which is truly unparalleled anywhere! We may be small, but this allows us to give individual attention to our customers and friends in the Atari world.



uper products wishes you a merry X-mas and happy New Year



Page Stream 2.1 review

The Paragon Report September 1991

New Document...	⌘N
Open...	⌘O
Append...	
Close	⌘W
Save	⌘S
Save As...	
Save As Template...	

Import Text...	
Import Graphics...	

Export Text...	
Export Graphics...	

Print Document...	⌘P
Save Doc Defaults	

Quit	⌘Q

Undo	⌘Z

Cut	⌘X
Copy	⌘C
Paste	⌘V
Delete	⌘D

✓ Insert Mode	

Select All	⌘A

Search Text...	
Replace Text...	
Replace Attributes	

Create Columns...	

Snap to Guides	
Snap to Grid	
Set Grid	

Insert Page	
Delete Page	
Move Page	

Move to Page	⌘M
✓ Show Master Page	
Set Text Routing	
Kill Text Routing	
Insert Page Number	
Set Starting Page #	
Set Page Dimensions	

Show Facing Pages	
Show Full Page	
Show 50%	
✓ Show Actual Size	⌘=
Show 200%	
Show Full Width	
Show/Set User Scale	
Variable Zoom	

Show Rulers	
✓ Show Guides	
✓ Show Grid	
Show Tabs	
Show Text Routing	
✓ Show Column Outline	
✓ Show Pictures	

Set Brecking	

The new Pagestream (version 2.1) began selling around Australia a few weeks ago with a minimum of fuss and without the months of advance advertising that has accompanied some software launches on the ST. This has boosted the reputation of SoftLogik, the company that makes Pagestream, as a quiet achiever, getting on with the job without making broken promises, leaving end users disappointed. There were magazine adds in Europe and the U.S.A. for just two months announcing the imminent release of Pagestream 2.1 then there it was, on the doorstep of users all over the world!

REPUTATION

The Australian distributors, Grass Valley Computer Wholesalers managed to release the upgrade to Australian users a few weeks ahead of those in Europe! (That makes a pleasant change, doesn't it!) They had a very positive upgrade policy to launch the product by offering the upgrade for just \$110 to registered Pagestream owners for a limited time. This continued a long tradition with softlogik of offering to upgrade their product for not much more than the price difference between the old and new versions. Their philosophy is clearly one of maximum support for Pagestream owners who have supported them. This has built up a level of trust over several years

as word has spread in the ST community that Pagestream users can expect on-going support and improvements. We all know only too well how rare a reputation like this is in the computer world where software companies and even computer manufactures continually fold up and disappear overnight. Just ask owners of IBM Compatibles about their troubles in this area!

So we have a new product from a company of high repute but how good is it? Well the short answer is VERY good. Pagestream boots up looking a lot like the previous version. Only a few new Icons give a clue to the awesome changes lurking "under the hood".

NEW USERS

Pagestream 2.1 looks so much like its predecessor that anyone who has used the program before will dive right in without looking at the manual until they want to unleash of the new enhancements at full power. Those who have not been introduced to Desktop Publishing before will find the legendary Pagestream screen presentation that is now famous as being about the easiest to use and least intimidating of any program on any computer. There are no complicated typography or page layout concepts to learn with this program. No need to create frames, open up special windows or editors here! Simply click

somewhere on the empty page and start typing in some text, much as you would if you were to try to do them same job without a computer to help. Does your text not look quite right? No problem! Grab the object with your on screen "hand" and move it, stretch it, squeeze it rotate it or run the mouse over the drop down menus and choose from many of other alternatives including everything from duplicating multiple selected objects in a single go to variable zooming until just a few letters of the smallest print fill the entire screen! Oops, should those words have been in CAPITALS? Easily fixed just select them with the mouse and choose the Make Uppercase menu item. There are many more little features like that waiting to delight the newcomer to desktop publishing.

What differences will the seasoned Pagestream veterans notice? Quite a few, especially in the power end of the spectrum. Let's cover them area by area.

SCREEN DISPLAY

The most noticeable improvement is that the text on screen is no longer blocky at large sizes or magnification. Objects and text can be manipulated with a more accurate screen presentation with less chance that the final print shows something different (and unexpected) from that displayed on the monitor. Move a graphic



Page Stream 2.1 review

Tag
✓ No Paragraph Formatting
Indented Paragraph
Outdented Paragraph
Set Indent/Outdent
Manual Kern
Batch Kern
Manual Hyphenate
Batch Hyphenate
Batch Spell Checking

Font / Point	AF
✓ Normal	AN
Backslant	AB
Bold	AB
Double Under	AE
Italicize	AK
Light	AL
Mirror	AX
Outline	AB
Reverse	AR
Shadow	AS
Strike Through	AE
Underline	AN
Upside Down	AM

Super Script
✓ Baseline Script
Sub Script
Change Super/Sub
Left/Right Indent
Line/Char Spacing
Block Left
Center
Block Right
✓ Char Justify
Word Justify
Auto Justify
Make Uppercase
Make Lowercase
Make Capitalized

Bring to Front OF
Send to Back OR
Group
Ungroup
Fill Style
Line Style
Edit Coord
Align
Rotate
Lock
Unlock
Text Runaround
Duplicate

close to some text and know that they will not overlap or block each other out in the printout. Pagestream 2.1 uses VECTOR fonts on the screen for anything more than 12 pixels high, and bitmapped display for the smaller text representation. Vector techniques mean that each character is represented by mathematical equations which can then be scaled (say made twice as big, [scaling factor 2]) without getting jaggies or looking blocky. A curve is still a curve and a line is a line no matter how big they are drawn and their relative places to other objects remain a CONSTANT whether being plotted on a monitor or a piece of paper. In other words things stay where you put them on the screen and on the printer.

A price has to be paid for all this maths calculation, and yes, Pagestream 2.1 is slower on the screen redraws. softlogik has minimised this price by leaving in the bitmap display for smaller screen displays. This means that you can have near the speed of the old Pagestream when you need it but the increased accuracy of the new one when you need to. For example this text is being entered straight into the page in CSTIMES 10 point, shown on screen at actual size. For those conditions Pagestream has automatically chosen a bitmapped display which is great because there is no need to

examine each character in detail for this operation, I simply need to read what I type in without concern for the exact shape of each letter. All this happens nice and quick too! When a much higher screen magnification is chosen then beautifully shaped characters can be seen but redraw takes longer, and this is OK because the high magnification would be used to accurately position objects on the page, usually a one off operation.

Screen redraw times are greatly improved by adding more memory. With 2 meg or more RAM, Pagestream 2.1 sets up a cache to store the screen. This means that when you go back to edit a section of the page, the program remembers the display it and so updates the screen very quickly.

Another nice feature of the improved screen techniques is the ability to read and edit rotated text. It really is awesome to see those smoothly formed characters leaning at some crazy angle, drop in the cursor and it takes up the same crazy angle, then type in some text and watch it appear beautifully formed and running across the page at your chosen angle.

EPS GRAPHICS

Pagestream 2.1 can now use Encapsulated Postscript (EPS)

graphics meaning that many more choices are available for clip art and picture files from the IBM compatible and Macintosh areas. Large proportions of this artwork is in vector format which once again means that it can be scaled to any size with no jaggies appearing. Some types of EPS files can even be edited on the screen from Pagestream itself. They can be stretched and resized of course, but the vector files can be separated out into their component curves and lines for full editing. This is a great way of learning how some of these stunning graphics have been created because you can dismantle them and study how various effects were achieved. The individual curves of the graphics can have shape changes imposed, as well as line pattern, thickness and colour altered. Graphic areas can be resized and have their fill pattern and colour changed. On the new Atari TT030 the on screen effects are spectacular because of the enhanced graphics modes with more colours and availability of A3 screen monitors!

NEW FONT TYPES

Extra font types have been made available with the new version of Pagestream. The old favourites like Tomhud, Oriental, Saturn etc are included (8 types) and three Compugraphic fonts have been added. These are Times, Triumvirate and Garamond font



Page Stream 2.1 review

Configure Printer
Set/Save Paths
Set/Save Macros
Measuring System
Change Screen Colors

Edit Color Palette
Edit Hyphen Exceptions
Set Hyphenation Rules
Edit Spelling Dict
Set Kerning Pair

families. Pagestream owners can now choose from the huge range of AGFA Compugraphic Intellifonts. These are a higher performance version of the fonts used by Calamus which have a different file structure, so Calamus fonts can't be used by Pagestream 2.1

Adobe Postscript Type 1 & 3 fonts can now be used which gives users access to the same fonts used by programs on the Mac, IBM PC compatibles and Amigas. There are many of these in the Public Domain so we can now have a large selection of fonts without paying a fortune for the privilege. I have heard that the overall choice of these types runs into the tens of thousands! Adobe Postscript type 1 fonts are hinted fonts which means that they have mathematical algorithms built in to improve the print quality at small sizes. Pagestream 2.1 is able to interpret these fonts to give high quality print even to none postscript printers, including 9 and 24 pin dot matrix printers.

There is an excellent section in the manual called "Understanding Pagestream" at the end of Chapter 1 which gives those of us without much knowledge of the printing industry to get to grips with the fonts. Compulsory reading for anyone contemplating Desktop Publishing, I reckon, and only 7 pages.

BEZIER CURVES

There is a new icon, second row down, right that looks like an

arrow pointing at a square dot and the icon at bottom left that looks like a trapezoid shape has an extra capability. These two allow the creation and editing of Bezier curves, or smoothly curving lines for the non technical people (like us!). With the lower icon you can draw a line but by holding the button down when the end point is set, the middle of the line can be curved to take up any shape possible for a single smooth curve. Complex curves are then a collection of these easily drawn single curves.

Any curve which has been selected has two end point "grab handles" plus two more at off-set points along the curve. These are known as control points and they can be moved to change the shape of the curve using the new icon. the position of the end points can also be moved.

These new curves can be used to build a smooth outline around an irregularly shaped object such as a scanned image, then text can be "run around" this shape. The curves can be made invisible (white) to hide the shape that was used for the text run around.

BLEED AREA

As well as the page area there is an adjacent work area that can be resized at any time. This allows for anything to be placed partly on and partly off the page to create various effects, especially with multiple pages. This "bleed" area permits objects to be resized, rotated or copied etc and still land in an area that can be picked up by the mouse and put back onto the page if necessary or even taken to another page.

QUICKSTART TUTORIAL

For those who never read manuals, (isn't that everyone!) there is a little booklet called the

quickstart manual that has a tutorial and basic setup instructions. This is an excellent little bonus that gets you desktop publishing straight away. One thing missing from both the manual and the quickstart is unambiguous advice to "UPDATE" the path containing the PLUGIN.TYP file using the font manager section of the program. Now they DO talk about the need to update the font folders so that the program knows where to find the font information but I got caught because I didn't update the folder with the plugin.typ file. When you click on font folders, a list of names appears in the right hand window of the manager showing the available fonts, you update that and everything is OK. But the plugin.typ file (and the other files with it) are not fonts, so they don't show up in the manager window when you click on their folder, so one would not expect to click on update when there is nothing there. trust me though, if you don't do this, strange things will happen like the text appearing on top of itself. Easily fixed once someone has told you what to do!

IMPROVED PRINTING

The printer drivers have been much improved in both quality and print speed. Paragon have a PD utility called FPRINT for the deskjet printer which produces printing speed on this printer that has to be seen to be believed! Even without that though printing is much faster and quicker. On the Atari Laser (SLM 804) for instance, all of the fill patterns now print brilliantly. All this power for only \$399.00

Reviewed for
The Paragon Report
Sept 1991
By
Trev Holland

The Pagestream Bulletin

Grass Valley CW
17a 5 Short Street
Perth WA 6000

September 1991

Phone 09 221 4142
Fax 09 325 8251

THE NEW PAGESTREAM'S SPEED

There have been a few complaints recently about the speed of our new version 2.1, particularly with regard to screen redraws. As is inevitable with a professional software package, the manual is unable to cope with every little aspect of what is essentially a very complex programme.

The purpose of these new Bulletins is to keep registered owners up to date with problems, fixes, hints, tips, and new developments. In many cases the information has come from BBS files from the USA and therefore many of the ideas will not be tested by us prior to publication. Part of the enjoyment and excitement of running any great piece of software must be in trying out new ideas, so in many cases we leave this to you.

For reasons not fully understood by the writer, PageStream will slow down considerably if there are a lot of fonts loaded into the font manager. While it is a nice feeling (gives you a feeling of *power*) to look down the font list and see dozens of names staring at you, just sitting there awaiting your slightest command, there is in fact a penalty to be paid and this is in the speed of screen redraws. Even if your document contains only *one* font, just having all the others listed in the font manager will slow down screen redraws to a crawl.

But this should not be a problem. The first point is that documents should rarely contain more than about 3 fonts. The second point is that the three CompuGraphic fonts supplied with PageStream 2.1 should be used for about 90%, or more, of your work. The other fonts are generally intended only for special use e.g. fancy headlines etc.

The first of the three CG fonts is **CS Times**, and note that this is a serif font (has those little tails etc) which are easier for the eye to follow and so this would be the most common font to use for body text. This is the equivalent of the old Tyme

font used in earlier versions of PageStream. **CS Triumvirate**

is the second font and as you can readily see it doesn't have those little tails i.e. it is a sans serif font, and is ideal for headlines and sub-heads, & can also be used for body

text. The third CG font is **Garamond**, a serif font like CS Times.

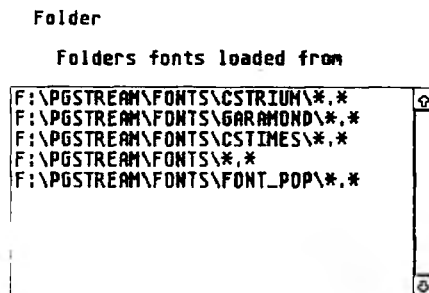
Because these fonts are intended for the majority of your work, they have a range of styles available as genuine fonts, and have almost the full range of characters available. Although you can ask PageStream to give you any font in bold, italic, or bold italic, it does this by approximating the effect you want. But with very commonly used and therefore very important fonts such as Garamond, CS Times and CS Triumvirate, you are given separate font files for these different styles.

For example, the file TIMES.CG represents normal, TIMES_B.CG is for bold, TIMES_I.CG is for italic and TIMES_BI.CG is for bold italic. The combination of these special files, wide range of characters and kerning values, plus printing quality, make the three CG fonts ideal to be your standard default fonts for the vast majority of your work. Generally speaking, most PS users will have a small number of PS fonts that are used with any regularity. Using the 'move' facility of TOS 1.4 or some utility

like CodeHead's MaxiFile, move somewhere between 6 and 10 (approximately) of your most-used PS fonts into a separate folder. It could be located anywhere on your hard drive, but using the 'move' option to the same drive will merely update the directory and not re-copy all the files. This new folder could be called something like FONT_POP.

Now load PS 2.1 and get into the font manager. Use REMOVE to eliminate all folders *except* those for the 3 CG font folders and the main font folder itself (the one containing the 4 separate files FONTEQIV.V2, FONTLIST.V2, FONTSS.V2, and PLUGIN.TYP).

Now click on ADD and through the item selector open the new folder FONT_POP. Clicking on OK will allow PS to add these fonts into the manager. The result will be as shown on the right. Clicking once more on the default button will make this your default setting and everytime you load PS 2.1 from now on these fonts will be available to you.



We are not quite finished yet. It is easy enough to add extra fonts at any time while within PS by using ADD in the font manager. However, if all the remaining fonts are in one folder then it will take quite some time for PS to read these into the manager, and again things will slow down to a crawl because all fonts are once more installed into the font manager.

The trick now is to move all fonts into much smaller groups (suitcases as the manual calls them) or folders as GEM calls them. One way to achieve this is to create a series of folders called FONT_A_C, FONT_D_G, and so on for H_M, N_S, and T_Z. Fonts are then moved *alphabetically* into these folders. So, if you are looking for a font called Decorative Borders then simply use the font manager to install the folder FONT_D_G. When the folder PSFONTS is completely empty then delete it.

If you have other types of fonts, such as IBM, it is a good idea to keep these separate from the PS fonts and also have them installed as above i.e. within a folder called IBM_FONTS you can also have FONT_A_C etc. Again, if there are any of these that you use frequently then it would be good to move them into a separate folder and have this installed as default as well. The important thing is that you should aim to have only 15 or so fonts installed into the font manager so as to maximise speed.

There is still one more thing to do in order to increase speed. The file FONTEQIV.V2 contains a list of all the CG fonts and the PS font equivalents, complete with font numbers. The file supplied by Soft Logic is 3896 bytes long but unless you add more CG fonts later, you need only three font equivalents, those for CS Times, CS Triumvirate, and Garamond. All other font references can be eliminated.

Keep the original file intact on your master disks and load a copy into a text editor. Using this editor eliminate all fonts except for Times, Helvetica, and Garamond. The finished file should be as shown below on the next page and be approximately 421 bytes long.

Not having all these font names in memory seems to speed up PageStream 2.1 considerably. The bad spelling of 'Equivelents' in the file is also in the original but doesn't seem to bother PS. Changing it may not cause any problem, but why bother, just as long as it works.

The full file necessary for the three CG fonts is as follows:-

```
%PageStreamFontEquivelents
%
% Font number equivelents & replacements
%
% FontEquiv;Font#;Font#
%
% Times
FontEquiv;5000;CG(Times)
FontEquiv;5000;PS(Times)
FontEquiv;CG(Times);PS(Times)
FontSymbol;CG(Times);CS
%
% Garamond
FontEquiv;5002;CG(Garamond)
%
% Helvetica
FontEquiv;1000;CG(Triumvirate)
FontEquiv;1000;PS(Helvetica)
FontEquiv;CG(Triumvirate);PS(Helvetica)
FontSymbol;CG(Triumvirate);CS
%
```

The only problem you are likely to encounter with shifting all the PS fonts into smaller folders, mostly uninstalled, will be found when loading an old document that used fonts now not in your font manager. PS 2.1 will still give a screen display but it will be obvious that it is not a proper font. Consulting the font selector will show that it has some numeric value instead of a title.

To fix the problem, either highlight the text and select a font that is loaded, or load the appropriate font folder into the font manager. If you don't recall which font was used either use a substitute or else keep on loading font folders until you find it. If screen redraws are now too slow, you can always go into the font manager and remove all font folders not actually used in that document. Remember, the font manager makes PS very flexible and versatile so you should be fully conversant with its features and how to use it.

While you are in the mood for shifting fonts, make sure that all of the old Tyme (or Time) and Helvetica fonts used by the earlier PS versions are now longer in with your remaining PS fonts. Because you have told PS, through the font equivalent file, that certain CG fonts now replace Tyme and Helvetica, these latter fonts will not appear in the font selector.

They are of course fully replaced by the CG fonts so the only reason that you might still need to use them is to exactly duplicate an earlier document. So, use 'move' again to move all of these fonts into a new folder, perhaps called TYME_HEL. This will include Helvetica Narrow but not Tyme Unslanted Italic which is a separate font.

To use these merely get into the font manager and remove the three CG font folders (first click on the folder name and then click on remove), and then use ADD for the TYME-HEL folder.

Rename Me

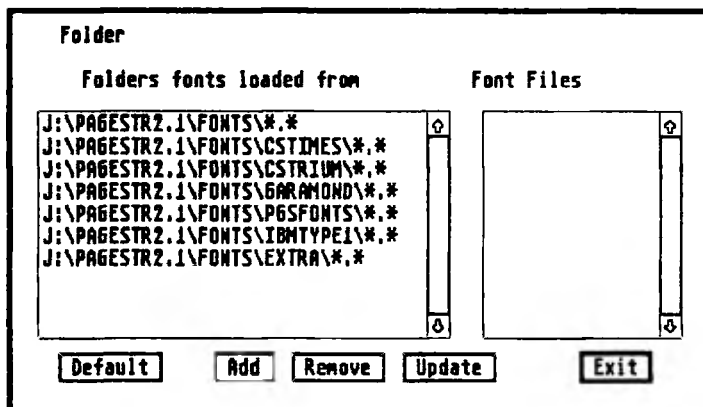
300	032	064	096	128	160	192	224
301	033	065	097	129	161	193	225
302	034	066	098	130	162	194	226
303	035	067	099	131	163	195	227
304	036	068	100	132	164	196	228
305	037	069	101	133	165	197	229
306	038	070	102	134	166	198	230
307	039	071	103	135	167	199	231
308	040	072	104	136	168	200	232
309	041	073	105	137	169	201	233

NORMAL
BACKSLANT
BOLD
DOUBLE

Now we tell you about the FONTSPEC.TEM file supplied on your original disks. Firstly load the file and if you have the CG fonts installed you will see the screen on the left come up in CS Times. All of these characters are available to you.

PageStream 2.1 Bulletin

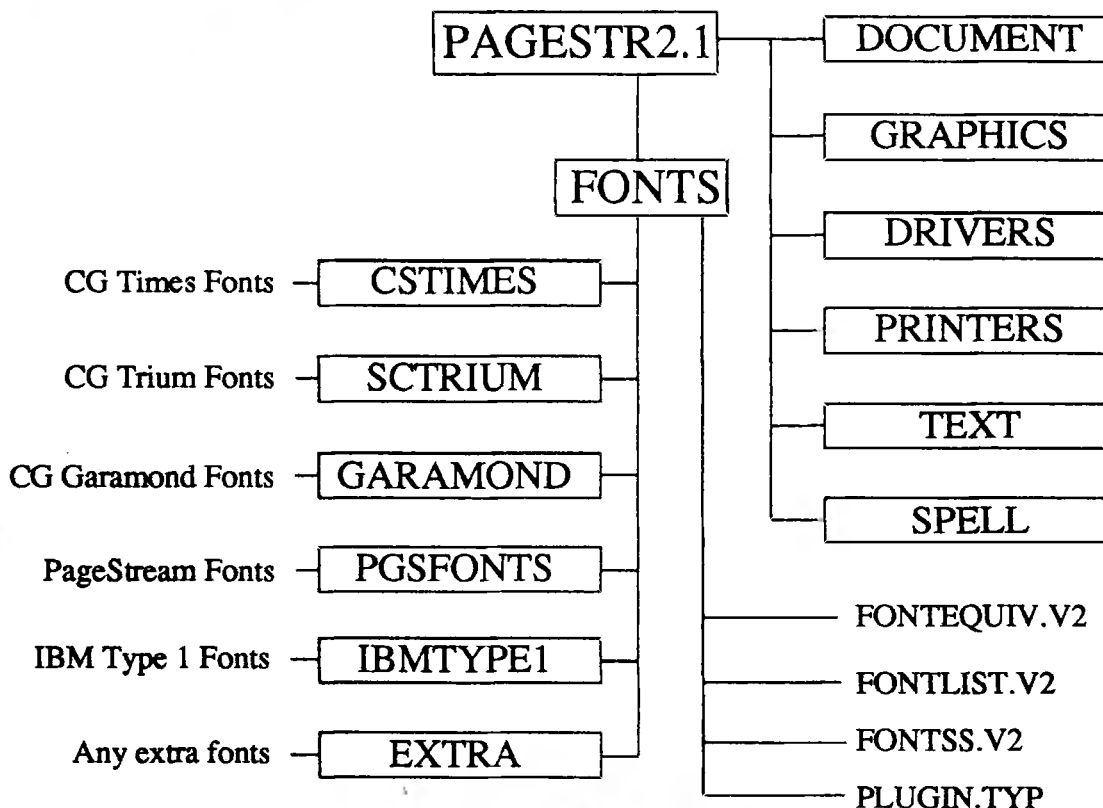
With the release of PageStream 2.1 in Australia some users have reported a few difficulties installing PageStream 2.1 fonts onto the hard drive. The flow chart below explains how your fonts should be arranged.



Your Font Manager will look like this for the flow chart below, please note this example is installed on drive J: You may have PageStream 2.1 installed on another partition, in this case you should make sure that the partition information precedes the folder paths. IE:-

J:\PATHNAME\ETC\ETC*.*

Failure to set the correct path will result in the program asking you to insert disk A: B:



=====

* * GFAGEN13 . . . Brian LEHNE * *

GFA.BASIC Version 3. Tips from one who has learnt the hard way - No.13

=====

* BIOS 10 *

Bios 10 is a System Routine that returns a Binary Number indicating which Floppy and Hard Drives are connected.

The relationship of Xbios(10) to the connected Drives is:

XBIOS(10) =&X1111111111111111
DRIVE LETTER= PONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

=====

* THE DEMO *

```

Cls
Hidem
Num_drives$=Bin$(Bios(10))           ! Binary Number of Connected Drives *
Max&=Sub(Len(Num_drives$),1)         ! Define the Array ceiling *
Dim What_drives$(Max&)               ! Dimension an Array *
Limit&=-1
For J&=0 To Max&
  What_drives$(J&)=""                ! Fill all the Arrays for Safety if Compiled *
  If Mid$(Num_drives$,Sub(Len(Num_drives$),J&),1)="1"
    ' ++++++ THIS CODE WOULD RETURN THE SAME RESULT ++++++
    ' If Asc(Mid$(Num_drives$,Sub(Len(Num_drives$),J&)))=49
    ' ++++++
    Inc Limit&
    What_drives$(Limit&)=Mid$("ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP",Add(J&,1),1) ! Fill Array *
  Endif
Next J&

Print "Connected Drives: "
Print "_____"
For J&=0 To Limit&
  Print What_drives$(J&)'           ! These Drives are Connected *
Next J&
A1$=" * THE END * | ;That was a short one! |"
Alert 0,A1$,1,"GFAGEN13",Void
Cls
Clear
Edit

```

* NOTE *

This routine can be used to compliment a Resource File or a DIY Selection Box instead of using a FileSelect Box which gobbles up over 32000 Bytes.

Bye for now:	Brian LEHNE	Member: Melbourne.A.C.E. & GBUG
	34 Jellicoe Street	
	Noble Park,	3174
	Melbourne, Australia.	
	Phn: (03)-791-7531	

The Keyboard Prayer



Our program who
art in memory,
Hello be thy name;
thy Operating Sys-
tem come, thy Commands be
done, on the Printer as they are
on the Screen. Give us this
day our daily Data, and for-
give us our I/O Errors, as we
forgive those whose Logic
Circuits are faulty; and lead
us not into frustration, but de-
liver us from Power Surges;
for Thine is the Algorithm,
and the Application, and the
Solution, looping for ever and
ever.

Return

Z*NET NEWSWIRE

Z*NET NEWSWIRE

*(Reprinted from Z*NET, Issue #91-40)*

[NOTE: Much of the news this week is from the Glendale Atari Show, held last weekend in Southern California. Details of these news stories can be found in the complete show report this week, as well as in the supplemental reports next week in Z*Net.]

GLENDALDE SHOW HAS 3,500. NEW PRODUCTS PREMIER

The Southern California Atari Computer Faire version 5.0 brought 3,297 visitors through the front doors and more through the back to make it the biggest Atari event in America in the last several years. Over 50 vendors and developers participated in one way or another, breaking all prior US records for variety and support. Lots of new products were premiered Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, and sales were "phenomenal". A comprehensive report by John Nagy follows the Newswire.

GE SERVICE TO HANDLE EXPANDED ATARI WARRANTY WORLDWIDE

Atari is engaged in negotiations to make General Electric Service Centers the worldwide walk-in and depot repair centers for Atari computers. Preparation included a redesign of the TT motherboard to meet GE's specs. The deal should become effective in January '92, and Atari's warranty period will be expanded from the current 90 days to 6 months or a year. Details are still being finalized.

FSM GDOS SHIPS!

The waiting is over for Atari's Font Scaling Manager, FSM GDOS. The first commercial copies were sold last weekend at the Glendale Atari show, as part of WordFlair II. A license fee of \$35 was charged at the show for the new system, which was designed by QMS-Imagen for use with their Ultrascript fonts and systems. Stand-alone commercial copies will be available within weeks, as only the packing box itself is not ready for shipping.

TT030 PASSES FCC TYPE B IN TWO VERSIONS

The Atari TT030 computer has at last passed the FCC certification process as a Type B consumer device, allowing unfettered sale and distribution to approved dealers. New FCC guru at Atari's Dallas research center is IBM and TI alumni Robert Joplin, who not only designed the new TT motherboard to pass the FCC, but then proceeded to alter the existing TT design to be able to pass as well.

71 SHIPPING WITH 1.44 MEG FLOPPY NOW, MEGA NEXT

The first boatload of new equipment from the plants in Taiwan is now in Sunnyvale, and the papers have arrived announcing another load coming. There should be ample stock for the upcoming months, and the new TT computers arriving now include a 1.44

megabyte floppy disk rather than the 720K unit shipped to date. Upgrades will be available 'soon' for existing TT and Mega STE owners at 'under \$100' according to Atari's Bill Rehbock.

ANOTHER NEW TOS AIDS UPGRADES

Atari has revised TOS again, this time to facilitate upgraded systems. The older versions do not check to see what kind of machine they are in, and so older (non-"E") computers have a hard time being adapted. The new code enables TOS upgrades for almost any Atari, although a new small circuit board is required to add the new 2.05 to older ST's. TOS 2.05 and a similarly updated version for the TT (3.x) should become available as standard replacement parts within 90 days. No other operational difference is integrated in this TOS change, so there is no reason to upgrade a Mega STE or TT with the new TOS.

ST BOOK NOW TYPE B, TO SEE IMMEDIATE PRODUCTION

According to Bill Rehbock in his address to Glendale show visitors, the Atari ST BOOK and Stylus Pad computers have been tested and already pass FCC Type B standards, and only the paperwork remains in the registration process. The ST Book will see production of about 1,000 units a month until after Christmas, when the hard-to-get Epson-made LCD screens will go off of the rationing program. The 1-meg, 40 megabyte HD version will retail at about \$1800, while the 4-meg 80 mbHD will be about \$500 more. Memory will not be upgradable.

STYLUS TO GET JUMP ON PAD MARKET

In final production tooling now, the \$1200 Atari Stylus (pad-like keyboardless computer) should be a leader at COMDEX in October due to the thousands of ST applications that are immediately compatible with it. The handwriting recognition system makes any normal ST program able to operate from the pen environment, while other brands of Pad computers are waiting for custom made applications before they will be useful.

CDAR505 CD ROM ARRIVING

'On the water' as you read this, the CDAR 505 CD ROM player from Atari will be available for sale by COMDEX in mid October. The first batch of production units were too late to be shown at Glendale last week, but will be in hand by the end of September. Atari's Softsource CD will be pressed in the next 45 days, and should retail at about \$29. A number of other companies are ready to produce CD titles for the ST as soon as the players are available. Look for details of the Z*NET CD featuring hundreds of MEGS of files, coming soon.



DIGITAL MASTER FROM HYBRID ARTS

Introduced at the Glendale show was Hybrid Arts new 'Digital Master' direct-to-disk sound manipulation system. This device, at under \$4,000, should make advanced digital audio editing a reality at thousands of TV and Radio stations as well as at the smallest of commercial recording studios. Best of all, it uses Atari - and ONLY Atari - computers as the control unit. More details are in the Glendale Show Report, also in this issue of Z*Net.

SOFT-LOGIK GIVING USER GROUPS PAGESTREAM

Atari user groups can get two copies of the desktop publisher PageStream 2.1, plus another demo copy for their library. The groups are urged to raffle one copy off, use the other for production of their newsletter, and offer the demo version for any member who wants to see more. A related program will offer discounts for user group members when they buy PageStream from dealers. The groups should send written requests to Soft-Logik, 11131 S. Towne Square, St. Louis, MO 63123.

ATARI QUILTS WAREHOUSE, CLEANOUT AUCTION

One of Atari's two Sunnyvale warehouses has been emptied and abandoned in a move that will save many thousands of dollars. On Friday morning, September 13, an auction was held at the old warehouse site to clean out the last of the various stock that Atari would not be retaining in storage. The variety was dazzling and in some cases, frightening to the buyers. Prototype 8-bit and ST hardware was in the batch, but much of it was withdrawn from sale. There were memory expansion modules for the 800's, something that looked like an ST disk drive but designed for cartridges of some kind, and more. Literally TONS of full pallets of 8-bit and 2600 game carts were earmarked for removal or shipping to Mexico where the 8-bit is still sold in volume. Buyers were shocked to find pallets of TT parts including power supplies, cases, and unpopulated motherboards in the trash and for sale, giving rise to an instant rumor that the TT was being discontinued. A more likely reason was revealed at Glendale's show that weekend when Bill Rehbock explained that a completely new TT board layout is now in production. The old parts are apparently not usable in the new design.

8-BIT SUPPORT

(Reprinted from ZMAG196 - September 10, 1991)
Courtesy CompuServe Atari8 Forum

The Atari 8-bit computers are one of finest home computers ever designed. Unfortunately, after some 12 years on the market, software and hardware has become very difficult to find. Hopefully this file will help you extend the life of your Atari. The following is a list of companies and individuals still marketing items as of 7/1/91.

If you know of any companies not on this list, or any changes necessary to this list, please contact us, as we are attempting to update this list on a regular basis.

Software Infinity
642 East Waring Avenue
State College, PA 16801

Good PD selection. Have just begun marketing commercial games from overseas.

Reevesoft
29W150 Old Farm Lane
Warrenville, IL 60555

Produces Diamond GOS cartridge, Diamond Paint, Diamond Write, Diamond News Station. Windowing environment for 8bits.

DataQue Software
PO Box 134
Ontario, OH 44862

Turbo-816 16-bit upgrade board, TransKey hardware for using IBM keyboards on the 8-bit, and other hardware.

B&C ComputerVisions
3256 Kifer Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408)749-1003

Huge selection of software and hardware items. Also some new commercial games, unavailable elsewhere.
Sagamore Software
2104 Arapahoe Dr.
Lafayette, IN 47905

Good PD/shareware selection with extensive documentation.

Change In Heat
12 Bella Vista Place
Iowa City, Iowa 52245

Independent programmer has produced 2 excellent commercial quality games for the 8-bit.

Bresnik Software
555 Ware Street
Mansfield, MA 02048

Another Independent, producing good educational software yet.

UltraBasic
10 East 10th Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

8-bit speciality software.

NERDS Software
18 Wendy Drive
Farmingville, NY 11738



Printshop related software.

IB Computers
9244 S.W. Beaverton-Hills Hwy
Valley Plaza Shopping Center
Beaverton, Oregon 97005 (503)297-8425

BellCom
PO Box 1043
Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J7A5

The largest PD/shareware selection.

Compsult
PO Box 5160
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-5160

Closeout items galore.

No Frills Software
800 East 23rd Street
Kearney, NE 68847

Closeouts & Printshop graphics.

Miles Better Software
219/221 Cannock Road, Chadsmoor
Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 2DD England

An overseas mail-order source for the Atari. They have many games which were never released in the US.

Electronic Clinic
4916 Del Ray Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20814

Refurbished equipment.
Kake Software 9 Smith Ct.
Vincentown, NJ 08088

Assorted theme disks.

Bscmun Software
1671 East 16th Street, Suite 629
Brooklyn, NY 11229

PD theme disks.

Alpha Systems
1012 Skyland Drive
Macedonia, OH 44056

Utility software & hardware.

American Technavision
15338 Inverness Street
San Leandro, CA 94579 (415)352-3787

Large selection of commercial software at closeout prices, and hardware replacement parts.

Best Electronics
2021 The Alameda, Suite 290
San Jose, CA 95126 (408) 243-6950

Known as "the" Atari hardware store. If they don't have the part you need, nobody does.

BRE Software
352 West Bedford Ave, Suite 104
Fresno, CA 93711

PD/Shareware.

C&T ComputerActive
PO Box 893
Clinton, OK 73801

Chameleon Software
1013 Marvern Drive East
Chambersburg, PA 17201

New & used 8-bit software and hardware. Had a "going out of business sale" in May '91, so they may be gone by now.

MWPDS
890 North Huntington St.
Medina OH 44256

Phantoms Atari 8-bit
Box 331 Levisa Road
MouthCard, KY 41548

Vulcan Software
PO Box 692
Manassas VA 22111-0692

Walt Huber
644 East Clinton
Atwater, CA 95301

Discontinued software galore, as well as some original programs.

Innovative Concepts
31172 Shawn Drive
Warren, MI 48093 (313)293-0730

Accessories, hardware, PD software

CSS
PO Box 17660
Rochester NY 14617 (716)586-5545

Specialty hardware items, 8-bit repair service.

San Jose Computers
640 Blossom Hill Road
San Jose, CA 95123 (408)224-8575

New and reconditioned hardware and software
Entertainment Excellence
1805 Princeton Place
Merrick, NY 11566

Discontinued 8-bit software.
East Hartford Computer
202 Robert Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

Discontinued software for all computers.



Aerion Software
PO Box 1222
Riverdale Station, NY, NY 10471-1222

Markets a new 8-bit commercial game.

Toad Computers
556 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd
Severna Park, Maryland 21146 (301)544-6943

Now offers a selection of software and reconditioned hardware.

When writing to request catalogs, it's always a good idea to include a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope. Next, is a list of magazines still supporting the 8-bit Atari.

Current Notes
122 North Johnson Road
Sterling, VA 22170

A truly excellent Atari-oriented magazine, supporting both 8-bit and ST.

Atari Interface
3487 Braeburn Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (313) 973-8825

A magazine supporting both 8-bit and ST, with input from Atari user groups in the US, Canada and the UK. They also produce a monthly Atari 8-bit disk. AtariUser
113 West College Street
Covina, CA 91723

A new Atari publication covering the full line of Atari products.

Rovac Industries
Post Office Box 59
Middlesex, NJ 08846-0059 (908) 968-2024

Produces Z*Magazine an Atari 8-Bit online magazine on a monthly basis.



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(03) 383-5252 AH

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and warranty worth \$900
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Ph: Michael (03) 568-7205

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